

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

NEXT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

BEYOND THE OFFICE DOOR, LLC (d/b/a
BTOD.COM) and GREG KNIGHTON,

Defendants.

ORDER

19-cv-217-slc

In this civil action, plaintiff RHH LLC alleges diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. A review of the complaint, dkt. 1, reveals that plaintiff's allegations regarding citizenship for the parties are inadequate because it has alleged only the principal place of business for Beyond the Office Door, LLC ("BTOD").

The first question in any lawsuit is whether the court has subject matter jurisdiction, and the court has an independent obligation to ensure that it exists. *Arbaugh v. Y & H Corporation*, 546 U.S. 500, 501 (2006); *Avila v. Pappas*, 591 F.3d 552, 553 (7th Cir. 2010). Section 1332 requires complete diversity of citizenship, meaning that no plaintiff may be a citizen of the same state as any defendant. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1); *McCready v. EBay, Inc.*, 453 F.3d 882, 891 (7th Cir. 2006).

The citizenship of a limited liability company such as BTOD is the citizenship of each of its members. *Thomas v. Guardsmark, LLC*, 487 F.3d 531, 534 (7th Cir. 2007) (citations omitted) ("an LLC's jurisdictional statement must identify the citizenship of each of its members as of the date the complaint or notice of removal was filed, and, if those members have members, the citizenship of those members as well"). Because plaintiff has not identified or alleged the citizenship of each of the members of BTOD, the court cannot determine whether plaintiff is diverse with respect to all of the defendants.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff has until April 4, 2019 to submit verification of the citizenship of each of the members of BTOD. An affidavit will suffice. In complying with this order, plaintiff should keep in mind that for the purpose of determining diversity jurisdiction, it is the citizenship, not the residency of a party that matters. *Craig v. Ontario Corp.*, 543 F.3d 872, 876 (7th Cir. 2008); *Meyerson v. Harrah's East Chicago Casino*, 299 F.3d 616, 617 (7th Cir. 2002). An individual is a citizen of the state in which he is domiciled, that is, where he has a “permanent home and principal establishment, and to which [he] has the intention of returning whenever he is absent therefrom.” Charles Alan Wright, *Law of Federal Courts* 161 (5th ed. 1994); *see also Dakuras v. Edwards*, 312 F.3d 256, 258 (7th Cir. 2002). Further, corporations are citizens of the states in which they are incorporated and have their principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1); *Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. v. Estate of Cammon*, 929 F.2d 1220, 1223 (7th Cir. 1991)).

Entered this 25th day of March, 2019.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge